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Divers Wanted: Get Trained To Protect Local Waters

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Divers Wanted: Get Trained To Protect Local Waters

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NH Sea Grant

July 11, 2006

DURHAM, N.H. -- Are you a recreational diver? NH Sea Grant needs your help. A new program developed by NH Sea Grant/UNH Cooperative Extension is training volunteer divers to identify and track invasive marine species. Divers interested in volunteering are invited to attend the training session on Monday, July 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Urban Forestry Center, 45 Elwyn Road, Portsmouth.

Introduced species often become invasive, driving out native species and threatening ecosystems. Once unwanted species have become established in a new habitat, they're practically impossible to eradicate. To prevent uninvited guests from becoming established, early detection is key.

Now divers can help to find and track introduced marine species. Divers will be trained to identify the top 10 "Most Wanted" invasive species in New England waters. They'll report on the presence and location of those species, helping scientists by tracking the spread of recent introductions and keeping an eye out for new invaders.

Divers interested in attending the training session should pre-register with Mark Wiley, NH Sea Grant's extension specialist in marine education (603-749-1565; mark.wiley@unh.edu).